

required in connection with the filing of an RCE.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following amendment and remarks.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants hereby request a three-month extension of time extending the time for response following PTO receipt of the Notice of Appeal from September 9, 2002 up to and including December 9, 2002 in order to file an RCE. The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required \$920 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703. Any other fee which may be due in connection with this Petition may likewise be charged.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Replace pending claim 2 with the amended version set forth below.

2. (twice amended) An assay for detecting peptidoglycan synthesis, which comprises the steps of:

C1 (1) incubating a reaction mixture comprising in aqueous medium a uridine(5'-)diphosphate (UDP)-N-acetylmuramylpentapeptide, radiolabelled UDP-N-acetyl glucosamine, a source of divalent

metal ions, a source of undecaprenyl phosphate, a source of peptidoglycan, a source of translocase enzyme, a source of transferase enzyme, a source of transglycosylase enzyme, a source of transpeptidase enzyme and a source of lipid pyrophosphorylase enzyme, under conditions suitable for peptidoglycan synthesis;

(2) adding a divalent metal ion chelator compound to the reaction mixture of step (1) to terminate peptidoglycan synthesis;

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3) adding lectin-coated beads impregnated with a fluorescer to the reaction mixture of step (2), which beads bind, via the lectin coating, any radiolabelled peptidoglycan synthesized from the radiolabelled UDP-N-acetyl glucosamine precursor in step (1); and

(4) measuring light energy emitted by the fluorescer as a result of activation of the fluorescer by the radiation energy emitted by the proximately-bound, radiolabelled peptidoglycan, which light energy is indicative of the presence of radiolabelled peptidoglycan synthesized in step (1).